opportunities are being created besides creation of durable community, social and economic assets for sustained employment and development. Provision of food security is another objective of the scheme. These schemes are to be implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as a measure of empowering them. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) seeks to provide connectivity to all unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons with good all-weather roads by the end of the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is being implemented to provide safe drinking water in rural areas. With a view to widening the coverage of rural sanitation, a Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is now being implemented in Project Mode in the identified districts. The Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) is implemented to improve the productivity of the Wastelands and living standard of the rural poor.

3. The Ministry constantly reviews its programmes for policy interventions for improvement of the schemes. Erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes, namely, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) were restructured into a single self-employment programme namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) from 1st April, 1999. A new wage employment programme, namely, the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was introduced w.e.f. 25-09-2001 after merging the erstwhile Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The scheme of Swajaldhara has been introduced for institutionalizing community participation in Rural Water Supply Programme. Recently, a new initiative called "Hariyali" has been launched wherein all watershed programmes are to be implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Shortage of potable water in Rajasthan, M.P. and Orissa

*140. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of potable water in the drought affected areas like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government is taking steps before hand for the next year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes Sir. Many rural areas in the country including areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, report shortage of potable water in the wake of the drought that affect these States especially during summer months.

(b) and (c) Although water supply is a State subject, Government of India supplement the efforts of the States in ensuring availability of drinking water in all the rural habitations by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In addition to the normal releases, 5% of the funds under the ARWSP have been earmarked for meeting contingencies arising out of natural calamities. The State Government have already been requested to prepare an action plan for providing drinking water in emergency situations as part of their disaster management plan. They have also been encouraged to focus on water conservation measures like ground water recharge, rain water harvesting etc. to improve ground water levels. The State Governments have also been advised to enact legislation for regulating ground water extraction in order to ensure optimum use of available water resources. A program for installation of one lakh hand-pumps, revival of one lakh traditional sources and coverage of one lakh primary schools has also been initiated as per the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15-08-2002, at a total cost of Rs. 800 crore to be implemented during 2002-03 and 2003-04, targeting rural areas affected with water scarcity.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Production of good quality coal

†793. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the production of good quality coal i.e. A and B grade is less as compared to its demand in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.